NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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National Weather Service to increase height of Melbourne, Florida weather radar

To avoid a partial beam blockage due to new hangar construction at the Melbourne International Airport, the National Weather Service will raise the height of its NEXRAD weather radar by 33 feet. The additional tower height will prevent a blockage of the beam's low-level scans to the south-southeast, which is the primary direction for most approaching hurricanes. Once raised, the radar will continue to provide 360-degree monitoring of hazardous weather conditions.

Beginning the first week of December, the tower will be dismantled, the supporting foundation rebuilt and the new 113 ft. tower reassembled. During that time, meteorologists at the Melbourne forecast office will use data from the surrounding NWS radars to provide forecasting and warning services to the citizens in their warning area. The process is expected to take up to seven weeks.

"While we raise the height of our radar to accommodate the new hangar, we will use radar information from National Weather Service NEXRAD radars in Tampa, Jacksonville and Miami, as well as the FAA radars in Orlando and Palm Beach," said Bart Hagemeyer, meteorologist-in-charge of the Melbourne forecast office. "We are leveraging neighboring radars to minimize the impact on weather forecasting services during this outage."

The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. The National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, the National Weather Service is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us online at weather.gov and on Facebook.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/usnoaagov.

For radar information during the outage of the Melbourne, Florida radar please visit: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/?n=radar

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